

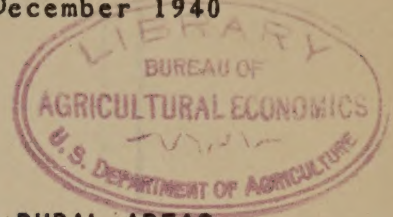
X

JAN 21 1941
R4991

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Agricultural Economics
and
Farm Security Administration

December 1940



PRELIMINARY CENSUS FIGURES SHOW POPULATION INCREASE IN RURAL AREAS

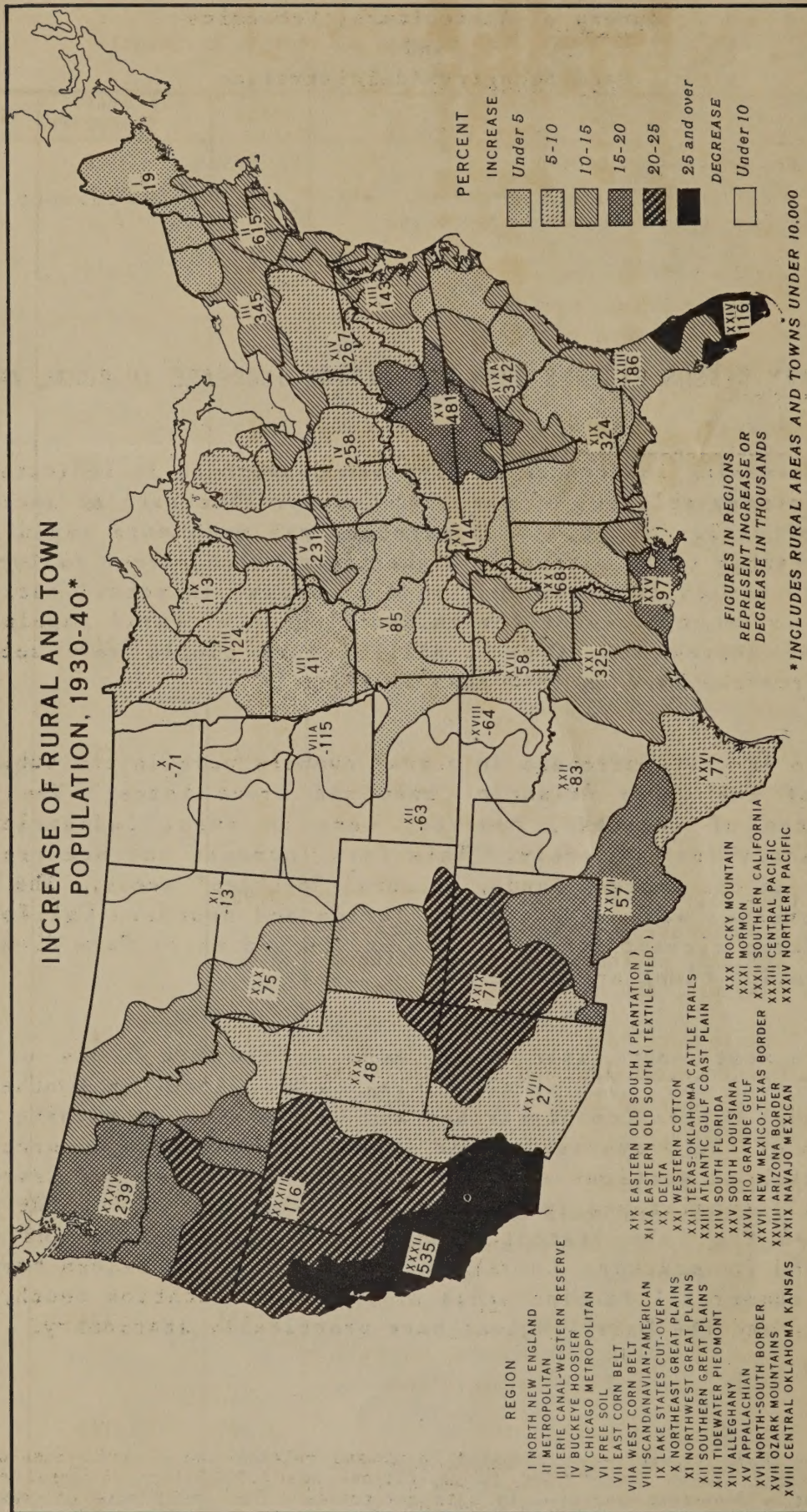
Increasing importance of the farm population is indicated by the preliminary releases of the 1940 Census. The rate of increase outside of cities of 10,000, 8 percent, was much more rapid than increase within these cities.¹ Higher farm birth rates, failure to migrate to cities as usual and, in some areas, an actual back-to-the-farm movement, account for this piling up of rural population during the depression. Over 2 million more people were seeking support from the land in 1940 than in 1930.

The largest increases in actual numbers were in the suburban regions of the upper Atlantic Coast and Great Lakes. The most rapid rates of increase, however, were in rural industrial or predominantly farming areas. This farm increase has occurred by and large in the poorest lands, or rural "problem" areas. The most rapid increases were in southern Florida and southern California where a large migrant-labor problem exists and where Farm Security Administration camps are taxed to the limit.

The next most rapid rates were in the new lands of the western Cotton and Delta areas, rising to 30 percent in southeastern Missouri, where tenant strikes and homeless laborers have been a symptom of the pressure. Rapid increases have also occurred in the mountainous sections--the Rockies, Appalachians, and Ozarks--where small subsistence farms have been taken up; in the cut-over regions of the Lake States; along the South Atlantic and Gulf Coasts; and in southern Louisiana and along the Mexican border. The good commercial farming areas of the Old Plantation South, the Corn Belt, and the Dairy regions were practically stationary.

¹Since the above figures were compiled, a Census release shows an increase of 4.9 million in urban places (over 2,500 in population) and 3.7 million in rural areas. This is about a 7-percent increase in both categories. The rural rate of growth is more rapid than shown, however, for many incorporated villages that were counted as rural in 1930 were shifted to urban because they have grown beyond the 2,500 mark. Figures showing the true growth of population in rural territory would include this shift.

INCREASE OF RURAL AND TOWN POPULATION, 1930-40*



POPULATION OUTSIDE OF CITIES

(October 1, 1940; Preliminary, subject to revision)

REGION AND STATES		1930	INCREASE (In thousands)	PERCENT
I.	New England Upland Northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and northeastern New York.	965	19	1.9
II.	Eastern Metropolitan Southern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, eastern New York, eastern Pennsylvania, all of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, 1 county in Delaware, and northeastern Maryland.	4,985	615	12.3
III.	Erie Canal - Western Reserve Western and central New York, Lake Shore of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan.	2,885	345	12.0
IV.	Buckeye Hoosier Western Ohio, southwestern Michigan, and eastern Indiana.	2,883	258	8.9
V.	Chicago Metropolitan Southeastern Wisconsin, northern Illinois, 2 counties in Iowa, 1 in Michigan, and 4 in Indiana.	1,559	228	14.6
VI.	Free Soil Northwestern Kentucky, southern Indiana, southern Illinois, northern Missouri, and northeastern Kansas.	3,989	85	2.1
VII.	Eastern Corn Belt Northwestern Indiana, central Illinois, most of Iowa, and southwestern Minnesota.	2,512	41	1.6
VIIa.	Western Corn Belt Southeastern South Dakota, eastern Nebraska, 3 counties in Kansas, and 3 in Missouri.	1,171	- 115	- 9.8
VIII.	Scandinavian-American East central Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and northeastern Iowa.	1,651	124	7.5
IX.	Lake States Cut-Over Northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.	1,277	113	8.8

REGION AND STATES		1930	INCREASE (In thousands)	PERCENT
X.	Northeastern Homestead Most of North Dakota, central and southwestern South Dakota, and eastern Montana.	1,074	- 71	- 4.2
XI.	Northwestern Homestead Central Montana, eastern Wyoming, western South Dakota, and 1 county in North Dakota.	400	- 13	- 3.1
XII.	Southern Homestead Western Nebraska, western Kansas, western Oklahoma, southeastern Wyoming, eastern Colorado, eastern New Mexico, and Texas Panhandle.	1,472	- 63	- 4.3
XIII.	Middle Colonial Surrounding Chesapeake Bay, central Virginia, and northeastern North Carolina.	1,325	143	10.8
XIV.	Allegheny Most of Pennsylvania, western Ohio, northern West Virginia, and northwestern Virginia.	4,930	267	5.4
XV.	Appalachian Southern West Virginia, southwestern Virginia, western North Carolina, northern Georgia, eastern Tennessee, Kentucky, and 2 counties in Ohio.	3,139	481	15.3
XVI.	North-South Border Central and western Kentucky, central Tennessee, central Missouri, 4 counties in northwestern Arkansas, and 3 counties in Ohio.	2,267	144	6.4
XVII.	Ozark Mountains Northwestern Arkansas, eastern Oklahoma, and south central Missouri.	831	58	7.0
XVIII.	Central Oklahoma - Kansas	818	- 64	- 7.8
XIX.	Eastern Old South (Plantation) South central Virginia, central North Carolina, central South Carolina, central Georgia, northern Florida, central Alabama, eastern Mississippi, and western Tennessee.	6,572	324	4.9
XIXa.	Eastern Old South (Textile Piedmont) Upper Piedmont from Danville, Virginia to eastern Alabama, and lower Tennessee valley.	2,651	342	12.9

REGION AND STATES		1930	INCREASE (In thousands)	PERCENT
XX.	Delta Western Mississippi, eastern Arkansas, eastern Louisiana, and 1 county in Tennessee.	998	68	6.8
XXI.	Western Plantation Central Arkansas, eastern Texas, western Louisiana, and southeastern Missouri.	3,077	325	10.6
XXII.	Texas - Oklahoma Cattle Trails North central Texas, southern and southwestern Oklahoma.	1,960	- 83	- 4.2
XXIII.	Southern Flatwoods Strip along Atlantic from Wilmington, North Carolina to Florida, northern Florida to Tampa, and Gulf Coast to Louisiana.	1,294	186	14.4
XXIV.	Southern Florida	232	116	50.1
XXV.	Southern Louisiana	609	97	15.9
XXVI.	Gulf - Spanish American Southeastern corner of Texas.	777	77	9.9
XXVII.	Central Spanish - American Southwestern Texas and southern New Mexico.	318	57	18.1
XXVIII.	Arizona Border Southern and western Arizona and 1 county in New Mexico.	321	27	8.4
XXIX.	Navajo - Mexican Northeastern Arizona, northern New Mexico, and southern Colorado.	353	71	20.0
XXX.	Rocky Mountain Western Colorado, western Wyoming, western Montana, eastern Idaho, and 3 counties in northwestern Washington.	549	75	13.7
XXXI.	Mormon Southeastern Idaho, most of Utah, 1 county in Wyoming, and eastern Nevada.	493	48	9.9
XXXII.	Southern California (Factory-Farm)	1,718	535	31.2
XXXIII.	Central Pacific (Forest-Grazing) Northern California, western Nevada, and southern Oregon.	486	116	23.8
XXXIV.	Northern Pacific (Northwest Frontier) Northern and southeastern Oregon, southwestern Idaho, and most of Washington.	1,207	239	19.9
Total		63,748	5,215	8.3

